

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In particular, claim 4 has been amended to read "messages received by the server device which are sent from terminal devices to the server device" which provides for antecedent basis for the recitation of "the messages" described in the step of "displaying the messages." Further, claim 4 has been amended to set forth "a server device" which provides for antecedent basis for the recitation of "the server device".

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0059184 in view of Abrahams, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0120934.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan and Abrahams, in view of Inala et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/001489.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan and Abrahams, in view of Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,058,428.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan and Abrahams, in view of Yoneda, U.S. Patent No. 6,002,832.

Claims 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan, in view of Abrahams and Emens et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,745,178.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons.

Amendments have been made to the claims to more clearly describe "displaying the messages together with the video image on the first and second terminal devices" in claim 1, "displaying the messages together with the video image on the second terminal device based on the received identification and object information and the messages" in claim 4; and to include "wherein the display unit displays messages together with the video image" in claim 9. Support for the limitations that have been added is found in the description of the disclosure with reference to pg. 34, line 14 - pg. 39 line 12, and the description of Figs. 6-8. Further, the limitation of "a second terminal device which obtains a content of interest rendered by media and displays an video image regarding the content" in claim 4 is supported by the description in the specification on pg. 8, line 18 - pg. 9, line 20 thereof with reference to Fig. 1.

Ilan discloses a system and method for establishing and maintaining real time,

subject oriented communication between at least two users in which the system includes user clients and at least one server in which a plurality of users are brought into direct, real time and user dependent, communication with each other upon receipt of a specific string of characters. Such a system and method would allow users which share similar interests to communicate messages with each other upon input from a user of a keyword that is used to initiate communication, such as online instant messaging, between users who are both interested in the same subject area. However, as described in paragraph 0007 in Ilan, this system requires a data string. As described paragraphs 0007 and 0008 in Ilan, the data string is a string of characters. That is, in Ilan's system, users need to enter a keyword as a data string (e.g., "automobile") to communicate between two or more users. Further, although Ilan discloses the phrase "interested in this subject area" (see paragraph 0008), the "subject area" means field or category regarding content of interest, and does not mean or indicate an object indicated by a user from a displayed video image.

In the present invention, since the first and second terminal devices transmit the identification information to identify the displayed video image and object information including information relevant to position or time of the object indicated from the displayed image, it is unnecessary to enter keywords to find partners for exchanging messages, such as in online chat. That is, this invention uses identification information and object information instead of a character string to make a group for communicating between two or more users having a common interest. Further, the invention "displays the messages together with the video image on the first and second terminal devices", as set forth in claim 1; "displays the

messages together with the video image on the second terminal device based on the received identification and object information and the messages", as set forth in claim 4; and provides a display unit that "displays messages together with the video image" as required by claim 9. Ilan does not disclose these aspects of the claimed combination.

Abrahams is relied upon for teaching a system for searching and matching objects of a video image, wherein information for matching includes identification information. See paragraphs 0046-0048 and 0062 of the reference. However, in these paragraphs, Abrahams discloses that a user selects an object displayed on a display by using a pointer, and selection information which comprises a program name, a program counter, and coordinates corresponding to the location of the selection within the display. Thus, Abrahams also does not disclose "displaying the messages together with the video image on the first and second terminal devices" (claim 1); "displaying the messages together with the video image on the second terminal device based on the received identification and object information and the messages" (claim 4); and a display unit that "displays messages together with the video image" (claim 9). Inala, Wang, and Yoneda are similarly deficient in this regard.

Emens discloses a method in a computer network for identifying users with similar interests, by computing a measure of similarity of a first query and a second query by first and second users transmitting the query statements to a server (114). According to the method disclosed by Emens, multiple users that share a common interest can be identified so that users with similar interests can be automatically introduced (see line 21-39, column 2 and

line 63-67, column 3). However, Emens also does not disclose or teach that the first and second terminal devices transmit the identification information and the object information, as claimed in claim 4. In Emens, like Ilan, the user needs to enter keywords (see line 17-23, column 5).

In the present invention, since the first and second terminal devices send identification information to identify the displayed video image and the object information, it is unnecessary to input keywords to find partners for exchanging messages. Further, Emens does not suggest the features of the invention as set forth in the claims as amended, including the displaying of the messages together with the video image on the first and second terminal devices, as set forth in claim 1; the displaying of the messages together with the video image on the second terminal device based on the received identification and object information and the messages, as set forth in claim 4; and a display unit that displays messages together with the video image as required by claim 9. Accordingly, the combination of Ilan, Abrahams or Emens and any of Inala, Wang or Yoneda does not render the claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted herewith following an informal discussion with the Examiner in which it was discussed that the addition of the limitations in claims 1, 4 and 9 as set forth would raise a new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, and therefore would not be entered after final rejection. No other issues

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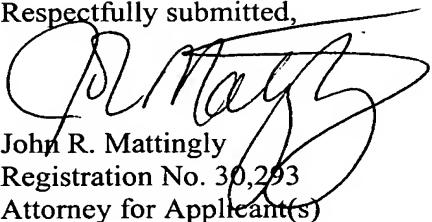
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concerning the merits of the rejection or the merits of any proposed amendments were discussed by telephone with the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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